Government have adopted multi-pronged strategy for augmenting gas supplies. The major policy initiatives include—

(a) Intensification of exploration and production activities through the bidding rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) Intensification of exploitation of Coal Bed Methane resources through competitive bidding rounds.

(c) Encouraging projects in the public and private sectors to import LNG.

(d) Bilateral initiative for imports of natural gas.

(e) Consideration of issues relating to transnational gas pipelines transiting through more than one country.

NPAs of Banks

*312. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act passed in 2002 has had any appreciable impact on the recovery management of the banks;

(b) if so, the details of the Non-Performing Assets of the banks during the last two years *i.e.* 2002-03 and 2003-04, year wise and bank-wise; and

(c) by when the outstanding NPA is likely to be fully recovered and what special steps are going to be taken for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) From the enforcement of the Securitisation Act and till March 31, 2004, the 27 Public Sector Banks have issued 55,408 notices for an outstanding amount of Rs. 17997.55 crore. An amount of Rs. 1482.17 crore from 20,382 cases has been recovered.

(b) The details of non-performing assets of public sector banks during the last two years bank-wise are given in the Statement.

(c) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues on continuous basis. These include evolving and implementation

of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees, Lok Adalats and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers among the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of vaible entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. A company *viz.*, "Assest Reconstruction Company (India Ltd.)" has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 for the purpose of addressing Non-performing Assets. "The Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" has been enacted to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues.

RBI had also issued revised guidelines for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs of Public Sector Banks on 29th January, 2003. These guidelines were to cover all NPAs in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business, which have become doubtful or losses on 31st March 2000 with outstanding balance of Rs. 10 crores and below.

Statement

Gross NPAs of public sector banks as on March 2003 & March 2004

(Rupees in crores)

Name of the Bank	2002-03	2003-04
Allahabad Bank	1841.60	1418.46
Andhra Bank	580.70	615.37
Bank of Baroda	4167.90	3798.95
Bank of India	3804.00	3451.40
Bank of Maharashtra	957.54	954.46
Canara Bank	2474.78	3114.99
Central Bank of India	3244.00	3091.92
Corporation Bank	657.34	722.01
Dena Bank	1616.58	1484.01

1	2	3
Indian Bank	1629.82	1166.32
Indian Overseas Bank	1896.48	1547.22
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1146.25	1213.73
Punjab & Sind Bank	1246.89	1203.51
Punjab National Bank	4980.06	4670.13
Syndicate Bank	1416.22	1586.14
UCO Bank	1366.49	1450.36
Union Bank of India	2387.61	2346.83
United Bank of India	959.08	764.18
Vijaya Bank	505.54	389.71
Total (Nationalised Banks)	**36878.78**	**34989.70**
State Bank of India	13506.07	11836.91
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	580.29	483.66
State Bank of Hyderabad	739.84	691.35
State Bank of Indore	295.25	266.36
State Bank of Mysore	562.01	514.53
State Bank of Patiala	533.85	503.61
State Bank of Saurashtra	354.34	200.43
State Bank of Travancore	635.26	661.76
Total (SBI Group)	**17206.91**	**15158.61**
Total (Public Sector Banks)	**54085.69**	**50148.31**

Shifting of Regional Office of United Bank of India

*313. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Bank of India as the lead bank for Manipur, has shifted its Regional Office from Imphal to Silchar, Assam and has also closed down its five branches;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) what steps are being taken including finding a new lead bank to accelerate banking activities in Manipur specially in hilly districts?